**USAID Feed the Future**

**Africa RISING (Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation)**

**Monitoring & Evaluation Expert Meeting**

**September 5-7, 2012**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**DAY 1: Wednesday, September 5th**

**Session I: Introduction (8:30-11:00)**

* Chair: Peter Thorne (ILRI)

*In this session the overall status, the research design and the general overview of the M&E framework of Africa RISING will be presented. The motivation, objective and organization of the Meeting will also be discussed.*

Welcome and presentation of agenda; ice-breaker mini-session (8:30-9:15)

* Ewen LeBorgne

Research design presentation (9:15-9:45)

* Joseph Rusike (IITA), Naomie Sakane (IFPRI/MSU)

Overview of M&E current activities for Africa RISING and progress report (9:45-10:00)

* Gary Ender (IFPRI/Abt Associates)

Plenary discussion (on meeting agenda, overall research design, M&E,...) (10:00-10:30)

*Break (10:30-11:00)*

**Session II: Status of research planning in the three project zones (11:00-13:00)**

* Chair: Sieg Snapp (MSU)

*This session will highlight the current status and future activities of the research in each project zone. Time for presentation will be 30 minutes, followed by 15 minutes of questions and answers.*

Sudano-Sahelian zone of West Africa (11:00-11:40)

* Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon (IITA), Asamoah Larbi (IITA), Sibiry Traore (ICRISAT)
* Clarification questions

Ethiopian Highlands (11:40-12:20)

* Peter Thorne (ILRI), Diego Valbuena (ILRI)
* Clarification questions

East and Southern Africa (12:20-13:00)

* Mateete Bekunda (IITA), Regis Chikowo (MSU)
* Clarification questions

*Lunch (13:00-14:00)*

**Session III: Monitoring tools (14:00-17:30)**

* Chair: Carlo Azzarri (IFPRI)

*This session will provide the participants a better understanding of the process followed so far in characterizing the sites and providing the general criteria for their selection. The monitoring tools IFPRI and SpatialDev have developed will also be presented and discussed.*

Site characterization and rationale for site selection (14:00-14:30)

* Christopher Legg (IFPRI)

IFPRI Monitoring tools and implementing partners: how to? (14:30-15:30)

* Ryan Whitley, Jubal Harpster (SpatialDev)

*Break (15:30-16:00)*

Feedback on Monitoring tools I -general tools- (16:00-16:30)

* Review of Tahirou Abdoulaye (IITA)
* Review of Sibiry Traore (ICRISAT)

Feedback on Monitoring tools II -site-specific tools- (16:30-17:00)

* Review of Joseph Rusike (IITA)
* Review of Regis Chikowo (MSU)

Feedback on site selection and Monitoring tools from plenary (17:00-17:30)

*Social event (18:30)*

**DAY 2: Thursday, September 6th**

**Session IV: Differentiating Monitoring and Evaluation for more effective M&E (8:45-13:00)**

* Chair: Mateete Bekunda (IITA)

*In this session the two concepts of Monitoring and Evaluation and their associated measures will be discussed in the context of the program, research activities and USAID requirements.*

USAID FtF indicators (9:00-9:15)

* Gary Ender (IFPRI/Abt Associates)

Research design and opportunities for evaluation (9:15-9:45)

* Joseph Rusike (IITA)
* Peter Thorne (ILRI)

Group work session on indicators and impact evaluation of Africa RISING I (9:45-10:30):

* What can we do with indicator data?
* Evaluation: relation between research design and opportunities for rigorous impact evaluation

*Break (10:30-11:00)*

Group work session on indicators and impact evaluation of Africa RISING II and feedback **(world cafe) (11:00-13:00)**

* How to use/adapt the Feed the Future indicators? (Gary Ender)
* Is there room to carry out rigorous impact evaluation? How? (Carlo Azzarri)
* How to link indicators to impact evaluation - which ones? (Joseph Rusike)

*Lunch (13:00-14:00)*

**Session V: M&E plan (14:00-17:30)**

*This session will deepen the future overall M&E strategy in relation to the research agenda and discusses its relevance and applicability at the project site level*

* Chair: Jerry Glover (USAID)

Draft M&E plan and overall future strategy (14:00-14:30)

* Gary Ender (IFPRI/Abt Associates)

Walkabout Q&A (14:30-15:30)

*Break (15:30-16:00)*

Review of the draft plan and relevance for the research plans at project sites (16:00-16:30)

* Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon (IITA)
* Peter Thorne (ILRI)

Plenary discussion on the draft M&E plan (16:30-17:30)

**DAY 3: Friday, September 7th**

**Session VI: How can we work together effectively for a successful M&E? Feedback and the way forward (8:45-13:00)**

* Chair: Ewen Le Borgne

*This session will summarize the discussions of the previous days, and provide further feedback on the M&E plan and tools in the light of USAID requirements on Monitoring versus Evaluation. Moreover, the participants will provide their views on the way each institution should collaborate with the other CG centers (IFPRI, in particular) for the actual implementation of the M&E plan and the effective flow of information to meet the objectives set out in the plan.*

M&E plan: next steps and the four years ahead (9:00-9:30)

* Gary Ender (IFPRI/Abt Associates)

Bringing it all together (9:30-10:00)

* Jerry Glover (USAID)

Walkabout Q&A (10:00-10:30)

*Break (10:30-11:00)*

Group work session (11:00-12:00)

Groups report to plenary (12:00-12:30)

Synthesis of the meeting and concluding remarks (12:30-13:00)

* Jerry Glover (USAID)

*Lunch (13:00-14:00)*